Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03098 01 OF 02 211447Z

51
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAB-01 SAM-01 IO-10 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 /087 W
---------- 125136
O R 211340Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6756
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 3098

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF, IS, EG, US
SUBJECT: LABOR ALIGNMENT CONTINUES DEBATE ON
GOI APPROACH TO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: TEL AVIV 2947

1. SUMMARY: LABOR ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION AND EXECUTIVE MAY 20 CONTINUED DEBATE ON GOI APPROACH TO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. KEY SPEAKERS PERES AND DAYAN FAVORED SEEKING SETTLEMENT BY STAGES RATHER THAN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT. DAYAN URGED THINNING OF ISRAELI FORCES ALONG SUEZ CANAL AS GESTURE TO EGYPT FOLLOWING OPENING OF CANAL. WIDE DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY SPEAKERS AGAIN UNDERSCORES SERIOUS DIFFICULTY OF RABIN GOVT TO OBTAIN CONSENSUS WITHIN LABOR ALIGNMENT FOR POLICY ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. DEBATE IS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 03098 01 OF 02 211447Z

DUE TO BE CONCLUDED MAY 26 AND IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE GOOD INDICATION OF LINE RABIN MAY TAKE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FORD.
END SUMMARY.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

2. LABOR ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION AND EXECUTIVE
HELD SECOND SESSION OF ITS CURRENT POLITICAL DEBATE
MAY 20 ON GOI APPROACH TO PEACE NEGOTIATIONS (FOR
FIRST PART SEE REFTEL). KEY SPEAKERS INCLUDED
DEFMIN PERES AND EX DEFMIN DAYAN. FINAL PORTION OF DEBATE
IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 26, AT WHICH PRIMIN
RABIN WILL GIVE CONCLUDING SPEECH.

3. SUMMARY OF REMARKS MADE BY KEY SPEAKERS
AS WELL AS CROSS-SECTION OF OTHER
PARTICIPANTS FOLLOWS:

4. DEFMIN PERES, ACCORDING TO PRESS
ACCOUNTS, SAID THAT STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS
WERE ONLY REALISTIC COURSE FOR ISRAEL, ARABS,
AND U.S. HE ASCRIBED FAILURE OF
KISSINGER'S SHUTTLE TALKS TO DIFFERENCES RE
DURATION OF THE PROPOSED INTERIM AGREEMENT AND
NOT RPT NOT OVER QUESTION OF THE PASSES OR
NON-BELLIGERENCE DECLARATION. HE STATED THAT
EGYPT ENVISAGED AN AGREEMENT LASTING LESS THAN ONE
YEAR-- AN IMPOSSIBLE CONDITION FOR ISRAEL TO ACCEPT.

5. ON EFFORTS FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, PERES
SAID HE WAS NOT AFRAID OF THE IDEA, BUT IT IS NOT
ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME. HE FEARED IT WOULD SPARK
CONFLICT WITH U.S., WHICH ADHERED TO ROGERS PLAN,
AND THE ARABS, WHO DESIRE STRANGULATION OF ISRAEL
AS A STATE. PERES STQTED THAT ISRAEL COULD NOT
WITHDRAW TO COASTAL PLAIN IF PALESTINIAN STATE WAS
ESTABLISHED FROM WHICH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS
COULD PARALYZE ISRAELI LIFE. PERES THOUGHT THAT
ARABS WERE CLOSER TO PARTIAL RATHER THAN TO OVERALL
SETTTLEMENT.

6. PERES REVEALED THAT SYRIAN LEADERS TOLD SECRETARY
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THAT ANY OVERALL PEACE PLAN ENTRAILED ISRAELI
ACCEPTANCE OF RETURN OF ONE AND A QUARTER MILLION ARAB
REFUGEES WITHIN ISRAEL'S 1967 BORDER AFTER TOTAL
WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE
ON WEST BANK.

7. FORMER DEFMIN DAYAN PROPOSED, AS GESTURE AT
TIME CANAL IS OPENED, THAT ISRAEL SHOULD CONSIDER
FURTHER REDUCTION IN WEAPONRY NEAR SUEZ CANAL.
ISRAEL WOULD HOLD SAME LINE, BUT MOVE TANKS AND
ARTILLERY EASTWARD. HAVING NORMAL LIFE IN CANAL
ZONE IS MORE IMPORTANT, DAYAN BELIEVED, THAN WAS BAR
LEV LINE. ISRAELI PRESENCE ALONG GULF OF EILAT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

IS ESSENTIAL, BUT NOT ALONG GULF OF SUEZ OR CANAL.

8. WHILE HE AGREED THAT EGYPTIAN PARTIAL SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY ISRAEL, DAYAN URGED RESUMPTION OF DIALOGUE WITH U.S. ABOUT CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE URGED ISRAEL TO CONTINUE ALONG ROAD OF PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS WHICH ARE LESS THAN PEACE. ARAB, HE BELIEVED, WOULD NOT MAKE PEACE NOW, EVEN IF ISRAEL WERE TO WITHDRAW TO 1967 LINES.

9. CHAIRMAN OF KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE YITZHAK NAVON CALLED FOR NEW INTERIM SETTLEMENT OFFER TO EGYPT. WHILE IN PAST HE HAD FAVORED OVERALL SETTLEMENT, HE BELIEVED THAT WAS NOT PRACTICAL NOW. WHAT MUST BE DONE NOW, NAVON SAID, IS TO PREVENT WAR AND MEND FENCES WITH U.S. YITZHAK BEN AHARON URGED THE GOVT TO FIND A NEW FORMULA FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. HE REGARDED THE PRESENT POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT AS PREDICATED ON MAPS AND CONDITIONS WHICH ARE NOT COMPAT-IBLE WITH PEACE. HE URGED THE ALIGNMENT TO TAKE INITIATIVE INFORMULATING PEACE PLAN. ISRAEL HAD MADE A VERITABLE ART OF AVOIDING A DECISION, BUT A DECISION HAS TO BE TAKEN.

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 03098 02 OF 02 211507Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 3098

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

10. YOSI SARID (MAPAI ULTRA-DOVISH) DECLARED THERE COULD BE NO
PEACE WITHOUT VERY LARGE CONCESSIONS: EVEN THE ALLON PLAN
IS NOT ATTAINABLE. THE PEOPLE HAD TO BE TOLD THE
TRUTH, AND SARID URGED NEW ELECTIONS WITH A CLEAR
PLATFORM, IN THE MEANWHILE ISRAEL SHOULD
TRY FOR AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

11. DAVID KOREN (EX-RAFI) BELIEVED NOW AS NOT
RPT NOT THE TIME FOR DRAWING MAPS AND TALKING
ABOUT CONCESSIONS, BUT FOR STANDING UNITED BEHIND
THE GOVERNMENT-- AS BROAD A GOVT AS POSSIBLE.
ELIEZER RONEN (MAPAM) THOUGHT IT WAS MISTAKE
NOT TO ACCEPT INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT,
UNSATISFACTORY AS IT WAS.

12. COMMENT: CONTINUING SHARP DIFFERENCES WITHIN
LABOR ALIGNMENT OVER PREFERRED APPROACH TO PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS UNDERSCORE DIFFICULTIES OF FORMULATING
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ANY POSITION WHICH CAN WIN CLEAR-CUT SUPPORT.
STATEMENTS OF PERES AND DAYAN CLEARLY FAVOR RESUMP-
TION OF INTERIM SETTLEMENT TALKS, AND SUGGEST
THAT MAJORITY OF SENIOR LEADERSHIP FIRMLY SUPPORTS
RABIN ON THIS APPROACH. DAYAN'S
REMARKS ON ISRAELI GESTURE FOLLOWING OPENING OF SUEZ
CANAL POSSIBLY SIGNAL POSITION WHICH PERES MAY
TAKE, ALTHOUGH RABIN HAS, TO DATE, OPPPOSED THE IDEA.
ALTHOUGH LABOR ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION IS NOT
DECISION-MAKING BODY, OUTCOME OF DEBATE MAY 26, WITH CONCLUDING
SPEECH OF PRIMIN RABIN, IS LIKELY TO PROVIDE GOOD
INDICATION OF LINE RABIN MAY TAKE IN
DISCSUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT FORD.
VELIOTES

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